

## **Chapter 40**

## **Chapter 40 – SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

### **National Interagency Incident Support Caches**

California operates two National Interagency Incident Support Caches as part of the National Fire Equipment System (NFES). The Northern California Interagency Support Cache (NCK) is located in Redding, CA; and the Southern California Interagency Support Cache (LSK) in Ontario, CA. These caches serve the supply needs of incidents in the Geographical Area Coordination Centers, including supplies required for project activities when not in conflict with incident activity.

Both caches stock National and Regional "NFES" items.

The caches stock three types of goods; Consumable, Durable and Property. All three of these types of goods are considered accountable.

- Consumable items are intended to be consumed at an incident, with life expectancy not to exceed one incident, if used (example: batteries).
- Durable items have a life expectancy of more than one incident, or use (examples: sleeping bags, fire hose).
- Property items are items with a purchase price greater than \$5,000 or sensitive items valued less than \$5,000. Property items are expected to be returned to the cache without exception. If a Property Numbered item is not returned, the cache will forward a Transfer of Property form to the Unit where the incident is located, and procure for replacement of the unreturned item (examples: Regional RAWs, pumps).

Limited Resource items are those items which have a fixed inventory in the national system. When ordering Limited Resource items, it is mandatory that all Units go through a GACC to place the request. The GACC maintains records to monitor available quantities, providing management of these items as National Resources.

Kits have been established to provide a collection of related articles, pre-assembled to accomplish specific functions. There are over 40 national kits, with an additional six specific to California. National kits have a standard configuration throughout all of the caches in the nation. Contents of all kits may be found in the NWCG National Fire Equipment System Catalog.

All supplies or equipment furnished to incidents will be considered "on loan" and should be returned as soon as practical with the exception of consumable items.

### **Ordering**

Interagency Cache Business System (ICBS) and Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) are now interfacing. This interface allows ROSS users to enter Supply (S) number requests to be sent to the cache direct for processing and filling. The cache, via ICBS is allowed to input S numbers for supply orders that go directly to the cache without the request being created in ROSS. These S numbers must be assigned by the incident and be between 100000 – 199999. This interface also allows ROSS users to see fill information for all S numbers that the cache has filled, no matter which way the requests were initiated.

Except for Limited Resource items, each Fire Cache will accept and process incident resource orders directly from Units within their area of influence once the incident is created in ROSS.

Cache orders from any Unit will require incident request numbers assigned by the ordering Unit, one per line item.

Once an incident is established, contact the local cache to establish an ordering schedule.

The NFES Numbers and the established "unit of issue" associated with each NFES item are mandatory parts of any order placed with the caches. When placing orders through the cache, it is always necessary

to provide the NFES number, corresponding “unit of issue”, quantity requested, and a written description of the item.

For NFES numbers, descriptions, and “unit of issue” reference the National Fire Equipment System Catalog - Parts 1 and 2 PMS 449 NFES 0362 at: <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/catalog.htm>

### **Abnormal Quantities**

Any order exceeding 25% of the established cache stocking level for an item is subject to verification by the Assistant Director, GACC Center Manager, Incident Commander, or the Logistics Chief.

### **Mobile Cache Vans**

Mobile cache vans provide the preliminary supply essentials to establish an incident base. For this reason it is expected that one mobile cache van should suffice per incident. Each mobile cache van contains supplies to support 150 people working and 150 people sleeping. All mobile cache vans are sealed, and are intended to be utilized as a complete unit. Component items may be ordered separately.

Many mobile cache vans are pre-positioned on host Units. If your Unit does not host a mobile cache van, your order is to be placed with your respective GACC. They in turn will order a mobile cache van from the nearest location. If your Unit does host a mobile cache van, it may be utilized at the discretion of the Unit Fire Management Officer. The use of a local mobile cache van must be documented with an S number on an incident resource order and the request placed to the respective GACC. The GACC places the request with the cache. It is the responsibility of the host Unit to provide transportation of the van.

CAL FIRE has developed a CAL FIRE specific mobile cache van to better meet the needs of CAL FIRE incidents. These vans contain supplies to support 150 people working and 150 people sleeping. These vans are available from the cache.

Mobile cache vans are to be returned to their respective cache after use.

Mobile cache vans are ordered in ROSS as Supplies, NFES 008646 (NCK) and NFES 008640 (LSK).

CAL FIRE Mobile cache vans are ordered in ROSS as Supplies, NFES 008744 (NCK).

Mobile cache vans are pre-positioned at each Geographic Area Cache and the following locations:

#### **Northern CA**

SRF	Rohnerville
LNF	Susanville
PNF	Quincy
LNU	Konocti
ENF	Placerville
KNF	Yreka (2)
MDF	Alturas

#### **Southern CA**

SNF	North Fork
SQF	Porterville
SQF	Kernville
LPF	King City
LPF	Los Prietos
INF	Bishop
CNF	Goose Valley
STF	Sonora

### **Demobilization**

All supplies being demobilized from an incident are to be documented on an OF-285 Interagency Incident Waybill, NFES 1472; one per shipment. Any supplies being retained on an incident during the demobilization process are to be documented on a waybill, and forwarded to the cache as well.

To help facilitate the return process, used (Not Ready for Issue) and unused (Ready for Issue), supplies being demobilized back to the cache should be divided, packaged, and packed separately. The caches will only accept rolled hose.

Sensitive or Property Numbered items requiring reconditioning prior to reissue from a cache should be returned as soon as no longer required. Seal numbers securing the shipping containers for these items are to be documented on Incident Waybills. Seals are mandatory when transporting Sensitive items to or from the caches, i.e. radios and computer equipment.

An AD-112 will be prepared for any property items that are lost, stolen or found to be unserviceable. Each cache requires immediate notification when Property Numbered items are involved.

Contact the cache with intended demobilization plans.

Both California Caches will close an incident 45 days following a control status, and charge unreturned supplies and equipment to the ordering Unit. Replacement orders received after the closing process will **not** be filled. Upon incident closure, a Loss/Use Tolerance Report will be generated for all Type 1 and 2 incidents supported by the Geographic Area Caches. This is a comprehensive report, displaying totals of Loss/Use rates for all Consumable and Durable items issued from the caches. Total percentages above or below the nationally accepted standard are also displayed. This report is forwarded to the agency administrator hosting the incident.

The following percentages have been assigned nationally as potentially acceptable rates of loss for Durable items:

Water handling (valves, nozzles)	10%
Helicopter accessories (cargo nets, lead lines)	10%
Camp items (tents, heaters, tables)	10%
Tools (shovels, pulaskis)	20%
Hose	20%
Backpack pumps	20%
Sleeping equipment (sleeping bags, cots)	20%
Clothing (jeans, shirts, coveralls)	30%

### **Replacement Orders**

Whenever possible, replacement orders are to be filled from stock on hand in Supply at the incident. If replacement orders are unable to be filled at the incident, their home Unit should place the order to the GACC cache. Incident Replacement Requisition, OF-315, (NFES 1300) shall be used when placing replacement orders to the cache.

Incident Replacement Requisitions from Type 1 or Type 2 incidents must be authorized by the Supply Unit Leader or other appropriate position. If received at the cache unauthorized, the requisition will be mailed to the appropriate FMO according to the incident location, for signature.

Incident Replacement Requisitions from Type 1 or Type 2 incidents can be sent to the cache, the S numbers must be assigned by incident and be between 100000 – 199999. S numbers will be input in ICBS and sent to ROSS via the interface. Incident Replacement Requisitions from individual resources will be created by the incident/expanded dispatch in ROSS and sent to the cache via the ICBS ROSS interface. Replacement Requisitions require incident request numbers be included, as a continuation of the incident documentation process.

Fire Management Officers shall forward to their respective cache, by April each year, a list of those persons authorized to approve replacement orders on their Unit. The authorized designees may then approve requisitions for incidents located on their Unit.

### **Recycling**

The recycling of plastics, cardboard, etc., is highly recommended, and is the responsibility of an incident to process.

**Hazardous Materials – Ordering and Shipping**

Hazardous materials are identified by definition in the Department of Transportation (DOT) Emergency Response Guidebook. Hazardous materials are: Any substance or material, which has been determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety or property when transported in commerce, and which has been so designated. The definition includes hazardous substances, hazardous waste, marine pollutants and elevated temperature materials as defined in 49 CFR, part 106 to 180.

If storing an identified hazardous material, refer to the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook. The guidebook lists all hazardous materials, and in the event of an accident explains precautions and actions to take.

If intending to ship the material by highway, the material and its quantity will determine how the item is to be packaged, documented and shipped.

**\* The following directions apply to all hazardous material shipping documents:**

- All information must be printed (mechanically or manually) in English.
- Shipping documents must contain the shipper's name and address, as well as the destination name and address.
- "Hazardous materials" must be entered as the first line item on a shipping document, or be printed in a different color.
- Hazardous materials must be listed by their proper shipping name, hazard class, ID number and packaging group. No abbreviations.
- All hazardous material packages must be properly marked, labeled, and packaged. The total weight must be included.
- The following shipper's certification must be entered on each shipping document: "This is to certify that the above named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked and labeled, and are in proper condition for transportation according to the applicable regulations of the DOT."
- A 24 hour emergency response telephone number, with someone available while the commodity is in transit.
- Emergency response information listed in the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook is also to be included.
- For questions regarding National Fire Equipment System (NFES) stocked hazardous materials, reference the Interagency Transportation Guide for Gasoline, Mixed Gas, Drip-torch Fuel and Diesel, 06/09 PMS 442 (<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm>) or the current "Hazardous Materials Haulback Guide".

**Hazardous Waste**

Regulations for hazardous waste are directed by the State. The State in turn charges the counties with enforcing their regulations. Therefore, determining the disposition of hazardous waste depends greatly upon the jurisdiction you are in. In all States, the regulations which govern the generation, containment, storage, transportation and documentation of bio-hazardous waste are very specific and well enforced.

Use of red bio-hazardous waste bags are specifically regulated. When used, contents are to be documented *immediately* by the user, as the bag may not be re-opened under any circumstances. The bag may not be taken to a landfill until it has been properly treated. Caches do not have a method of disposal for bio-hazardous (medical waste) bags.

**Under NO circumstances, will any California Cache accept used bio-hazard bags.**

## Communications

### National Fire Radio Caches (NFRC)

A description of the equipment available from NIFC's, National Incident Radio Support Cache (NIRSC) is located in the ICS Communications User Guide. Dispatch of NIRSC systems will be through the GACC.

Ordered in ROSS as Supplies, with the appropriate NFES number, using the following procedure:

1. Ensure that the request has accurate Latitude/Longitude information.
2. In the Shipping Information block of the request, select Shipping Address from the drop down or enter Shipping Instructions.
3. In the Shipping Contact block of the request, identify the Shipping Contact and a phone number.
4. In the Incident Ordering Contact block of the request, identify the Communications Leader, specifying "on order" if not yet determined.
5. In the Special Needs block of the request, include the full "Bill to" information.
6. Specify if freight shipping is OK, or if a charter aircraft is required to meet the needed date and time.

As kits are released from the incident, they are to be returned to NIRSC at NIFC for refurbishment even if the seal is not broken. The receiving unit will check with the GACC before returning any NFRC system back to NIFC.

### NFES 4390 – ICS Command Starter System

The standard starter system contains sufficient equipment for Command and Logistical communications needs for a three division incident. The entire starter system will be packaged and shipped as a standard unit. California may preposition 4390 starter systems at the Cache. These systems are only pre-positioned and remain under the control of NIRSC.

Requests for individual or additional kits (boxes) will be honored. They must be ordered by their individual NFES stock numbers.

The starter system will have Air Guard located in the last channel. This frequency is **not** authorized for use by the incident for communications.

Order in ROSS as: Supply, NFES Supplies, Kit – Starter System ICS Command/Logistics Radio System

### NFES 4381 – HT Radio Kit

NFES 4381 kits are available from the Interagency Caches. Each kit contains 16 hand held radios configured with all USDA-FS and DOI tactical, command and national air frequencies. The *radio manufacturer* requested needs to be confirmed by the Communications Unit Leader and specified in the order in "Special Needs".

Order in ROSS as: Supply, NFES Supplies, Kit – Command/Tactical Radio, (Synthesized)

### **CAL FIRE HT Radio Cache**

CAL FIRE has 40 HT Radio Caches. There are 20 located at CNR, 20 located at CSR (10 at CSR and 10 at FKU). Each kit contains 10 BK GPH Commander Portable Radios with antenna, clamshell, leather case and T-card. Batteries are included for all 10 radios. Each radio is programmed to current CAL FIRE statewide "Group 3" on Groups 16-25.

Order in ROSS and place to the appropriate GACC as: Supply, Non-NFES; Cache, HT Radio

The following information must be included in the ROSS request:

**Special Needs:**

- Bill to information
- Ship to information – include contact person with phone number
- Communications Unit Leader's name and phone number

A Federal Financial code (P Code) is needed in the financial code box.

**CAL FIRE Portable Repeaters**

CAL FIRE has portable command repeater kits available throughout the state. Each Unit and Mobile Communications Center (MCC) has a portable repeater available for use within their Unit. CAL FIRE Telecom has additional repeaters that can be ordered through the Sacramento Command Center. To ensure that appropriate equipment is filled, provide the ordering contact information in the request.

For additional information contact CAL FIRE Telecom (916) 327-8652.

Order in ROSS as: Supply, Non-NFES; Kit, Command Repeater

**Frequencies**

Responders need to verify incident frequencies and tones to use when responding to or assigned to an incident. All requests for additional frequencies shall be ordered in ROSS using A numbers.

Activation of National Fire Radio Frequencies will be controlled and coordinated by the GACC due to the complexity of Incident radio usage.

For California Tones refer to the California Interagency Mobilization Guide Appendix A.

Reference the California Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 50 for additional information on aviation frequencies.

**Mobile Communications Units – All Agencies**

Statewide there are mobile communication units available through CAL FIRE, CAL OES, and CA BLM. To check for availability, contact the GACC.

Order in ROSS as an Equipment request.

CAL FIRE order as: Telecommunications (CDF Only) Communications Unit, Mobile, Type 1.

CA BLM and CAL OES order as: Trailer - Communications

**Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS)****Federal**

When a Unit requires additional RAWS units they should be ordered using the normal dispatch procedures. They are ordered on a Supply Request and have NFES numbers.

Reference National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 40 for additional information.

**CAL FIRE**

CAL FIRE currently has seven (7) portable RAWS assigned to Units for use on State incidents.

Request RAWS through GACC.

Ordered in ROSS as: RAWS, Portable. Category is NON-NFES supplies.

Reference the CAL FIRE Handbook 8100 procedure 344.

**Mobile Food Service****National Contract Mobile Food Service – Federal**

When the determination is made that contract mobile food services are needed in support of federal wildland fire activities in the United States, the Government is obligated to order services from National Mobile Food Service Unit (MFSU) Contractors (National Caterer) when at any time:

- The number of people to be fed is at or above 150 persons per meal,  
AND
- The headcount is estimated to remain at those numbers, or greater, for at least 72 hours from when the headcount first reaches 150 per meal.

If national incident activity is high and a National Mobile Food Service Unit is unavailable, cooperator units may be used. A second E number will be generated for cooperator unit (See next section, MKU/FDU). In such case, the cooperator is guaranteed a minimum 72 hours of work, even if a National unit becomes available before then. Cooperators include state managed kitchens.

For a complete listing of the Schedule of Items and Contract Specifications for the National Mobile Food Service Contract, reference the current National Mobile Food Services publication, NFES 1276. This information can also be found at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/contracting/>

National Food Service units are ordered as an E number and are called Food Service, Mobile in ROSS. All National Food Service unit orders are placed to the GACC and then onto NICC. NICC will determine and assign the appropriate units to all federal wildland fire incidents.

Mobile Food Service requests must be completed and faxed to the GACC at time of ROSS request. Refer to the California Interagency Mobilization Guide, Appendix A, for the link to the National Mobile Food Service/Shower Unit request form.

All requests to reassign National Contract Mobile Food Service will be placed through established ordering channels to NICC. All reassignments of National Mobile Food Service will be done by NICC.

All release information will be documented in ROSS and relayed to NICC within 15 minutes. Contractors may take 24 hours to rest and replenish supplies within the local area after release. After 24 hours, contractors must return to the unit's designated dispatch point.

### **Mobile Kitchen Unit (MKU) and Food Dispensing Unit (FDU) – CAL FIRE**

MKUs and FDU's are specialized resources and require certain support resources to facilitate their operations. Each camp which supplies a MKU/FDU will have specific needs for their operation. Once a MKU/FDU is requested the goal is to get the resource to the incident by either the next morning or evening to feed the incident personnel.

Food Dispenser Units (FDU) - Food Dispenser Units or steam tables should be used, when available, when the number of meals to be served will not exceed the unit's capacity (200-300 meals).

Mobile Kitchen Units (MKU) - When the needs of the incident exceed the capacity of the FDU, a FDU is not available, an incident base has been established, or an incident management team will be assigned, Mobile Kitchen Units will be the first choice for feeding of incident personnel. CAL FIRE MKUs should be used first followed by MKUs from cooperating agencies and then rented MKUs with CAL FIRE kitchen crews.

Order in ROSS as an E number as: Food Service, Mobile. In special needs, identify CAL FIRE MKU or CAL FIRE FDU, include Date and Time of first meal and number of persons served. The Unit who fills the MKU/FDU will coordinate with the appropriate camp, and roster all specific equipment needs. Reference the CAL FIRE Handbook 8100 procedure 341.

If national incident activity is high and a National Mobile Food Service Unit is unavailable to federal Units, a CAL FIRE MKU may be used. In such case, CAL FIRE is guaranteed a minimum 72 hours of work, even if a National unit becomes available before then.



**Northern California**

AEU Growlersburg MKU/FDU  
 HUU Eel River MKU  
 HUU High Rock FDU  
 LMU Antelope MKU  
 LNU Konocti MKU  
 SHU Trinity River MKU  
 TGU Salt Creek MKU/FDU

**Southern California**

BDU Prado MKU  
 FKU Miramonte MKU  
 MVU Puerta La Cruz MKU/FDU  
 SLU Cuesta MKU  
 TCU Vallecito FDU

**Mobile Shower Facilities****Federal**

For a complete listing of the Schedule of Items and Contract Specifications for the National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract, refer to the current National Mobile Shower Facilities Contract publication, NFES 2729. This information can also be found at the following website:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/contracting/>

National shower contractors may offer to bring other optional items such as hand-washing units and water tenders, in addition to the shower units. Incidents are not required to order or use these items from national contractors. Units should use local vendors to fill these needs when possible.

All requests to reassign National Contract Shower units will be placed through established ordering channels to NICC. All reassignments of National Shower units will be done by NICC.

All release information will be documented on the resource order and relayed to NICC within 15 minutes. Contractors may take 24 hours to rest and replenish supplies within the local area after release. After 24 hours, contractors must return to the units' designated dispatch point.

National Mobile Shower Facilities are ordered as an E number and are called Shower, Mobile in ROSS. All National Mobile Shower Facilities orders are placed to the GACC and then onto NICC. NICC will determine and assign the appropriate units to all federal wildland fire incidents.

The National Mobile Food Service/Shower Unit request form must be completed and faxed to the GACC, at time of ROSS request. Refer to the California Interagency Mobilization Guide, Appendix A, for the link to the form.

**CAL FIRE**

Requests for showers on CAL FIRE incidents will follow CAL FIRE Hired Equipment Guidelines. Refer to Hired Equipment in the California Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 40.

**Mobile Saw Trailer – CAL FIRE**

CAL FIRE has a Mobile Saw Trailer available from the Mt Bullion Camp, Madera Mariposa Unit. This trailer comes equipped with enough supplies (bars, chain, filters, parts, etc.) to support an incident for 5 days. The trailer is staffed with 1 Fire Captain, 1 CDCR Officer and 2 CDCR Inmates. Order in ROSS as: Equipment, Trailer. In Special Needs state Mt Bullion Saw Trailer.

**Hired Equipment****Forest Service Incidents – Contract/Hired Equipment (non-National Contract)**

Use the R-5 Expanded Dispatch Incident Guide for VIPR, DPL, IBVPA, Incident Only/EERA  
[http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/logistics/equipment\\_supplies/docs/12\\_exp\\_disp\\_contract equip\\_guide.pdf](http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/logistics/equipment_supplies/docs/12_exp_disp_contract equip_guide.pdf)

For Incident Procurement and Fire Contract Clarification/Assistance, reference:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/fire-aviation/management/?cid=stelprdb5303034>

Each host dispatch center will give dispatch priority to the resource offering the greatest advantage to the Government **before** all other private resources not under Agreement with the following exceptions:

- For Immediate Need/Initial Attack, dispatchers will follow the “closest forces” concept and utilize locally available resources according to agency and incident needs.
- Tribal preference policy established within reservation jurisdiction

#### **CAL FIRE Incidents – Contract/Hired Equipment**

The Hired Equipment Management System (HEMS) will be used for dispatching immediate need and planned need fireline dozers and water tenders, as well as, support equipment. Reference CAL FIRE Handbook 7700, Policy 7761.6.5 and CAL FIRE Handbook 8100, Procedure 345.

#### **Unified Command Incidents – Contract/Hired Equipment – State and Federal**

The following criteria will be considered when determining which Hired Equipment system will be used at unified command incidents.

- DPA – current and threatened
- Unified Ordering Point
- Early coordination with expanded dispatch between finance and logistics functions
- Access to various agencies hired equipment programs and agency personnel to use their respective programs